Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-10 L-03 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 SSM-03 /093 W

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FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1814
USMISSION USUN NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL ALEXANDRIA 0467

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, SA, EG
SUBJECT: SSOD: IRAQI RESOLUTION ON MILITARY COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL

REF: STATE 159971

FOLLOWING IS FROM AMBASSADOR EILTS IN ALEXANDRIA:

1. WHEN MEETING WITH FONMIN KAMEL TODAY IN ALEXANDRIA, I RAISED WITH HIM IRAQI RESOLUTION ON MILITARY COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL. I NOTED REFERENCE TO U.S. DELETED, BUT EVEN WITH THIS IT CLEARLY IS DIRECTED TO USG AS ISRAEL'S MAJOR ARMS SUPPLIER. I POINTED OUT THAT ANY ASSISTANCE ON ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL IS UNREALISTIC, WHICH I WAS SURE GOE UNDERSTANDS. ANY SUCH EMBARGO WOULD SIMPLY HURT PEACE PROCESS. I ALSO MADE CONSENSUS POINT. I URGED THAT GOE WITHDRAW IT'S COSPONSHORSHIP OF RESOLUTION AS EVIDENCE OF ITS OPPOSITION TO IT.

2. KAMEL SAID GOE HAD OPPOSED RESOLUTION FROM OUTSET, BUT HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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FINALLY HAD TO BECOME A COSPONSOR BECAUSE OF ARAB PRESSURE. THE RESOLUTION, HE NOTED, IS QUOTE EMBARASSING UNQUOTE TO EGYPT AND GOE HAD SUCCEEDED IN DELETING REFERENCE TO USG. PROBLEM NOW IS THAT GOE CAN HARDLY DROP COSPONSORSHIP WITHOUT INCURRING SERIOUS ARAB CRITICISM. GIVEN RECENT ISRAEL RESPONSES TO USG QUESTIONS, IT WOULD GIVE IMPRESSION GOE ACCEPTS THESE ANSWERS AS ADEQUATE WHEN IN FACT IT DOES NOT.

- 3. APART FROM THIS FACTOR, HE HAD TO SAY IN ALL FRANKNESS THAT GOE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND RATIONALE FOR CONTINUED MASSIVE USG ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL. WE HAD FREQUENTLY TOLD GOE THAT INCREASING ISRAEL'S SENSE OF SECURITY WILL MAKE HER MORE FLEXIBLE IN PEACE PROCESS. EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT JUST THE OPPOSITE IS THE CASE. WITH STILL MORE U.S. ARMS, ISRAEL HAS BECOME EVEN MORE INFLEXIBLE. ISRAEL ALREADY HAS MORE ARMS THAN IT NEEDS TO DEFEND ITSELF. THUS, WHATEVER GOE RESERVATIONS ON THE TACTICS OF INTRODUCING SUCH A RESOLUTION AT THIS TIME, IT AGREES WITH THE OBJECTIVE THAT FURTHER ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL OUGHT TO BE STOPPED.
- 4. I SAID WE UNDERSTAND GOE VIEW, BUT THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM THAT BOTH OF US FACE IS THE ADVERSE IMPACT ANY SUCH RESOLUTION WILL HAVE ON THE PEACE PROCESS. I THOUGHT THAT ON THIS POINT WE WERE IN AGREEMENT. HE HAS SPOKEN OF GOE'S QUOTE EMBARRASSMENT UNQUOTE ABOUT THE RESOLUTION. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I HOPED GOE WOULD SEE ITS WAY CLEAR TO WITHDRAW ITS COSPONSORSHIP WITH THE RESOLUTION. IT COULD EXPLAIN SUCH ACTION ON THE CONTEXT OF THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS. KAMEL WAS DUBIOUS THAT AFTER ISRAELI RESPONSES ANY SUCH EXPLANATION WOULD HOLD WATER.
- 5. I FINALLY DID GET HIM TO AGREE TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE MATTER AND TO CONSIDER WHAT EGYPT MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO TO PREVENT PASSAGE OF IRAQI RESOLUTION. I NOTED IMPORTANCE OF GETTING CONFIDENTIAL

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INSTRUCTIONS TO EGYPT DEL TODAY. KAMEL SAID HE AND AHMED MAHER WOULD URGENTLY CONSIDER WHAT, IF ANYTHING, GOE MAY BE ABLE TO DO TO ABORT THE RESOLUTION. HE WAS CLEARLY UNCERTAIN, HOWEVER, WHETHER GOE SHOULD, AFTER ISRAELI RESPONSES, TAKE THE RISK OF ACTIVELY OPPOSING IRAQI RESOLUTION AND AROUSING ARAB IRE.

6. SUGGEST USUN FOLLOW UP WITH EGYPTIAN DEL. MCCLELLAND

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